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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,216	06/15/2001	Robert L. Fitzsimmons JR.	VULC005/00US	5137

22903 7590 12/17/2003

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EXAMINER

FATAHI YAR, MAHMOUD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,216

Applicant(s)

FITZSIMMONS, ROBERT L.

Examiner

Mike Fatahiyar

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9 and 10.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 2-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 2, the recitation recited at lines 4-7, is vague, indefinite and incomplete because it is not clear how the visitor is enabled to provide inputs relating to the plurality of the public space elements or how the supplemental information related to the plurality of the public space elements is accessed. Through what sort of device, element or means information is inputted or accessed is unclear.

In claim 10, lines 3-6, the recited language is also vague, indefinite and incomplete because it is not clear how the information is experienced or how the information relating to a public space element is inputted or accessed. Also, the relationship between the recited steps is unclear. In other words, how these three steps are functionally interconnected together in order to achieve the intended goal or method of using of the device.

In claim 19, lines 6-7, the recited language is vague, indefinite and incomplete because it is not clear to what "the system for enabling the visitor to obtain additional information relating to the public space elements" refers to. Is this system a separate system from the one recited in the preamble of the claim? The structural relationship between the recited "system" and the portable selection device is also unclear.

Note, the claims are generally and unduly broad listing a catalog of steps or elements without specifying any interrelationship between the recited steps or

interconnection between the recited elements for performing or achieving the intended functions. Corrections and/or clarification is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by King et al(6,169,498B1).

King et al disclose a method and an apparatus for supplementing an experience of a visitor to a public space including a plurality of public space elements and information relating to the plurality of public space elements(column 2, lines 51-67) comprising a portable device(10) which is a PDA having wireless capability for receiving e-mails(i.e., connecting to a network) enabling a visitor to proactively select information relating to the plurality of the public space elements as the visitor is within the range of a particular public space element(column 5, lines 1067) and providing the visitor access to supplemental information relating to the public space elements(i.e., use of the PDA which is a portable computer device with the capability to connect to a network(column 4, lines 24-34)). Note, the portable PDA is also capable of receiving audio, video, text and image content relating to the public space element(see columns 3-4 and figure 1).

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Suzuki, Kim et al, Whited, Lamming et al, Yamakita, Takigami and Chaco et al are made of record to show various types portable devices for identifying objects in a public space.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mike Fatahiyar** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-6911**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard Hjerpe**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4709**.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**


**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

M. Fatahiyar *MF*

December 14, 2003

  
RICHARD HJERPE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600